

In the Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A coupling for transmitting ultrasound energy along an independent axis (A) between a tool receptacle (2) and a tool (3) with two oppositely directed contact means (4a, 4b) facing and spaced from one another and capable of being prestressed axially by a prestressing means (5), wherein at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b) has at least one of an axially directed linear contact tip and a pointform contact tip (6).

2. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein a plurality of contact tips (6) are spaced laterally apart forming at least one of said contact means (4a, 4b).

3. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact means (4a, 4b) comprises pointform pointform contact tips (6) on each of said tool receptacle (2) and tool (3) directed into point contact with one another.

4. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said contact tips (6) (6", 6'', 6'''') extend linearly.

5. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 4, wherein said ~~said~~ linearly extending contact tips ~~(6)~~ (6') extending at least in part annularly.

6. (Withdrawn - Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 5, wherein said contact tips ~~(6)~~ (6') are ring shaped.

7. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 1, wherein said prestressing means (5) comprises an axially directed screw-thread biasing member.

8. (Currently amended) A coupling, as set forth in claim 7, wherein said screw thread biasing member extends axially from said tool ~~receptacle~~ (2) (3) into a threaded bore extending axially into said tool (3) receptacle (2).